

**Intellectual Property (IP) Community Outreach Research Support
Solicitation Number DOC52PAPT0701030
Questions and Answers, 06/07/2007**

1. Will the USPTO provide a list of Intellectual Property community members, from which to sample for the research?

Response: The PTO has an initial list of contacts, which the contractor will likely need to supplement depending on their proposed sampling methodology.

2. What is the size of the IP community? Are there subgroups/audiences that are of particular interest, must be controlled for or potentially over-sampled in quantitative research?

Response: The IP community includes all of the creators and users of intellectual property, and is therefore a broad and diverse community of substantial size. The groups include business, legal, and academic audiences. Subgroups within business include various industry sectors, such as the biotech, IT, chemical, software, medical, and transportation sectors, for example.

3. How is the IP community defined; what are the variables/specifications for inclusion?

Response: As noted above, the IP community includes all of the creators and users of intellectual property. This includes people and companies who create new products or processes and the attorneys who help them obtain and enforce patent rights, as well as scholars who study the IP system.

4. Are there any trade associations that the USPTO interacts with, which might assist in outreach or who might have useful input/member lists?

Response: We expect the PPAC members to assist in outreach. These members also have useful contact lists.

5. The RFP specifies needing analysis and recommendations for the patent examination "system." What does the "system" include or encompass?

Response: The patent system includes the types of patents offered by the USPTO and the processes undertaken to obtain and enforce these patents. It includes a statutory framework that establishes fundamental characteristics of the system, a system of federal regulations which fleshes out the statutes, and the internal business operations of the USPTO. The study is intended to be broad, and seeks to solicit input in any and all aspects of this system.

6. Is the proposed research undertaking the first of its kind, or have similar analyses been completed previously? Are any available for review?

Response: This is the first such undertaking by the USPTO. Various publicly available studies have been conducted on the patent system by groups such as the FTC and NAS.

7. Can any further information be provided on how extensive the assistance needed will be for OMB clearance and documents? What would the contractor's role be, more precisely?

Response: OMB evaluates information gathering proposals to ensure that the methodology used is statistically sound. The contractor would need to provide enough information on their process to allow OMB to make that determination. [Suggest you contact Marty Rater for more info on OMB clearance if needed.]

8. If available it would be useful to know the most important users of the patent examination system or what groups are making the most filings. Is there any breakout of the most important target audiences, recognizing of course that all users are important?

Response: The USPTO has detailed lists of all patent filers, including how many applications each entity files. The USPTO also tracks filings by type of technology covered in the patent.